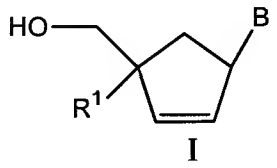
IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A compound of Formula I:



I

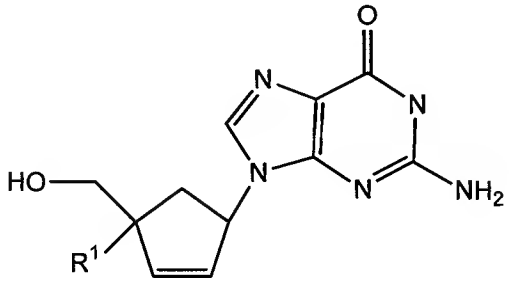
wherein:

B is adenine, guanine, cytosine, uracil, ~~thymine~~, 7-deazaadenine, 7-deazaguanine, 7-deaza-8-azaguanine, 7-deaza-8-azaadenine, ~~inosine, nebularine,~~ nitropyrrole, nitroindole, 2-aminopurine, 2-amino-6-chloropurine, 2,6-diaminopurine, hypoxanthine, pseudouridine, pseudocytosine, pseudoisocytosine, 5-propynylcytosine, isocytosine, isoguanine, 2-thiopyrimidine, 6-thioguanine, 4-thiothymine, 4-thiouracil, O^6-methylguanine, N^6-methyladenine, O^4-methylthymine, 5,6-dihydrothymine, 5,6-dihydrouracil, 4-methylindole, triazole, or pyrazolo[3,4-d]pyrimidine; and B is optionally substituted with one or more alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, (cycloalkyl)alkyl, hydroxy, or halo; and

R^1 is alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cyano, azido, or fluoromethyl;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof;

provided the compound of formula I is not a compound of formula II:



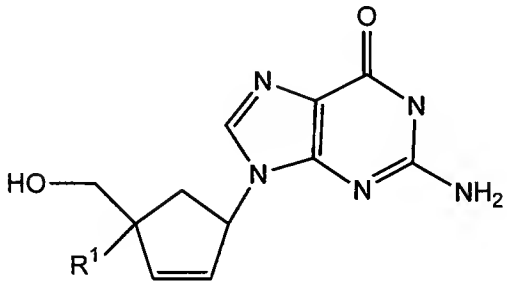
wherein R^1 is alkyl.

2. (Currently amended) The compound of claim 1 wherein B is adenine, guanine, cytosine[[,]] or uracil~~, or thymine~~; which B is optionally substituted with one or more alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, (cycloalkyl)alkyl, hydroxy, or halo.

3. (Currently amended) The compound of claim 1 wherein B is 7-deazaadenine, 7-deazaguanine, 7-deaza-8-azaguanine, 7-deaza-8-azaadenine, ~~inosine, nebularine,~~ nitropyrrole, nitroindole, 2-aminopurine, 2-amino-6-chloropurine, 2,6-diaminopurine, ~~hypoxanthine,~~ pseudouridine, pseudocytosine, pseudoisocytosine, 5-propynylcytosine, isocytosine, isoguanine, 7-deazaguanine, 2-thiopyrimidine, 6-thioguanine, 4-thiothymine, 4-thiouracil, O^6-methylguanine, N^6-methyladenine, O^4-methylthymine, 5,6-dihydrothymine, 5,6-dihydrouracil, 4-methylindole, triazole, or pyrazolo[3,4-d]pyrimidine; and B is optionally substituted with one or more alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, (cycloalkyl)alkyl, hydroxy, or halo

4. (Currently amended) The compound of claim 1 wherein B is adenine, guanine, cytosine[[,]] or uracil~~, or thymine~~.

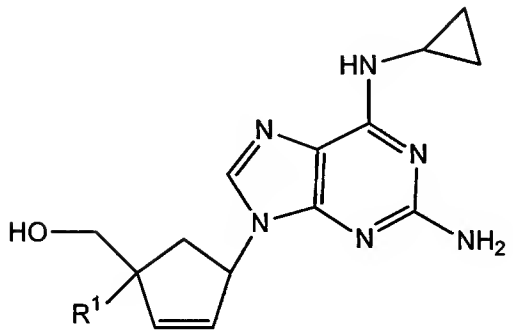
5. (Original) The compound of claim 1 which is a compound of formula II:



II

wherein R^1 is alkenyl, alkynyl, cyano, azido, or fluoromethyl.

6. (Original) The compound of claim 1 which is a compound of formula III:



III

wherein R^1 has any of the values defined in claim 1.

7. (Previously presented) The compound of claim 1 wherein R^1 is alkyl.

8. (Previously presented) The compound of claim 1 wherein R^1 is methyl.

9. (Previously presented) The compound of claim 1 wherein R^1 is fluoromethyl.

10. (Previously presented) The compound of claim 1 wherein R^1 is alkenyl.

11. (Previously presented) The compound of claim 1 wherein R^1 is vinyl.

12. (Previously presented) The compound of claim 1 wherein R^1 is alkynyl.

13. (Previously presented) The compound of claim 1 wherein R^1 is ethynyl.

14. (Previously presented) The compound of claim 1 wherein R^1 is cyano.

15. (Previously presented) The compound of claim 1 wherein R^1 is azido.

16. (Previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition, comprising an effective amount of a compound of Formula I as described in claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

17. (Previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective amount of a compound of Formula I as described in claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof; a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient; and a therapeutically effective amount of another therapeutic agent.

18. (Original) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 16 which further comprises an AIDS treatment agent selected from an HIV inhibitor agent, an anti-infective agent, and an immunomodulator.

19. (Original) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 16 which further comprises an HIV-protease inhibitor.

20. (Original) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 16 which further comprises a reverse transcriptase inhibitor.

21. (Original) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 16 which further comprises a non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor.

22. (Original) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 16 which further comprises an HIV integrase inhibitor.

23. (Previously presented) A method of inhibiting a viral infection in an animal (e.g. a mammal), comprising administering to the animal, an effective amount of a compound of Formula I as described in claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof.

24. (Previously presented) A method for the treatment or prevention of the symptoms or effects of a viral infection in an animal comprising administering to the animal, an effective amount of a compound of Formula I as described in claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof.

25. (Previously presented) A method of inhibiting an HCV infection in an animal comprising

administering to the animal, an effective amount of a compound of Formula I as described in claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof.

26. (Previously presented) A method for the treatment or prevention of the symptoms or effects of HCV infection in an infected animal comprising administering to the animal, an effective amount of a compound of Formula I as described in claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof.

27. (Previously presented) A method of inhibiting a viral enzyme comprising contacting a sample suspected of containing viral infected cells or tissues with an effective amount of a compound of Formula I as described in claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof.

28. (Previously presented) A method of inhibiting RNA-dependent RNA polymerase in an animal comprising administering to the animal, an effective amount of a compound of Formula I as described in claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof.

29-34. (Cancelled)

35. (Previously presented) A process for making a pharmaceutical composition comprising combining a compound of Formula I as described in claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.